

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2020

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*** Press Release ***

State of Emergency

14 New JCPD Officers Sworn in as Jersey City Maintains Public Safety as Top Priority During World Pandemic

Jersey City – Mayor Steven M. Fulop welcomed 14 new police officers to the ranks today, a significant addition to municipal first responders who have been on full alert since the city declared a State of Emergency earlier this week due to the international pandemic, Covid-19, the Coronavirus.

The new class, graduates from the Passaic County Academy training facility, is comprised of nearly 80-percent minority residents, a continued focus of the Fulop administration the last several years to have the police and fire departments reflect the population overall, which again has been recognized as the most diverse community in the United States.

The class will immediately begin field training and become an asset during the emergency as social distancing and an array of other health safety measures put into effect are adhered to by the public.

"This is a different time for all of us, particularly for young first responders whose first assignment if to face professionally responsibilities they've taken an oath for during a pandemic," **Mayor Fulop** said. "We welcome this new group and I'm certain they will only enhance the fine job our officers have done over the years and will continue to do during this current world crisis that is impacting us all."

During the state of emergency, it has been requested that whenever possible residents and employers are asked to work from home. However, first responders are on full staffing levels and all municipal offices are open and operating to service residents by appointment only.

Since 2013, Fulop has increased the police department by least 22 percent, growing from 765 to nearly 950 officers today, all the while realizing a 70 percent drop in crime over the last two years.

Mayor Fulop is keeping residents informed by daily updates at 3 pm via Facebook Live on the <u>Jersey City Facebook Page</u> If you have specific questions you want us to answer, please email <u>fulops@jcnj.org</u>.

All media inquiries should be directed to Kimberly Scalcione at KScalcione@jcnj.org.